

**Exotic Species**—When dealing with exotic or nondomestic species, contact your State animal health official at:

<http://www.usaha.org/Portals/6/StateAnimalHealthOfficials.pdf>

or APHIS –VS Area Office at: [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_health/area\\_offices/](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/area_offices/)

## **Blood Collection and Submission**

Identify each animal with either an official USDA metal eartag placed in the upper middle portion of the right ear, an official USDA RFID eartag placed in the middle of the left ear, an individual animal's breed registration tattoo or brand, or an individual registration number (in conjunction with an official eartag, or breed registration tattoo or brand) issued by a breed association recognized by VS. (Also see the section entitled "Current Animal Identification.") Record the eartag (identification or vaccination), registration tattoo, age (months or years), sex, and breed on VS Form 4–33. If you are working with a herd known to be, or suspected of being, infected, take proper precautions by wearing protective gloves and eyewear. Avoid direct contact with retained placenta, vaginal discharges, aborted fetuses, and other reproductive tissues because these materials are potential sources of human brucellosis.

*Note: If the animal has an official USDA metal or RFID eartag in place, record that eartag on the 4-33, but do not place a new official USDA metal or RFID eartag in the ear. Record all official USDA eartags (metal and/or RFID).*

Collect 3 to 5 mL of blood. Take appropriate precautions to prevent hemolysis by (1) sending the samples with ice packs or (2) centrifuging, pouring the serum off, and sending the serum only. (See the section entitled "Laboratory Submissions.") Because swine blood is particularly susceptible to hemolysis, take extra precautions in handling it. If you are bleeding the animal with a needle and syringe, do not extrude the sampled blood from the syringe through the needle into the test tube. This practice can cause hemolysis. Blood or serum samples should be delivered to the cooperative State or Federal laboratory as soon as possible for testing. Test results will be interpreted by State or Federal regulatory officials. You may be contacted for additional individual or herd history.

## **Animals Eligible for Vaccination**

Vaccinate only heifer calves between the ages of 4 and 12 months. Many States have even more restrictive age requirements for vaccination. Before vaccinating any animals for brucellosis, be certain that you understand and follow your State's requirements. Adult vaccination for brucellosis is conducted by State and/or Federal officials only. If you have questions concerning this program, contact the State animal health official or the APHIS – VS Area Office nearest you.

## Instructions for Vaccination

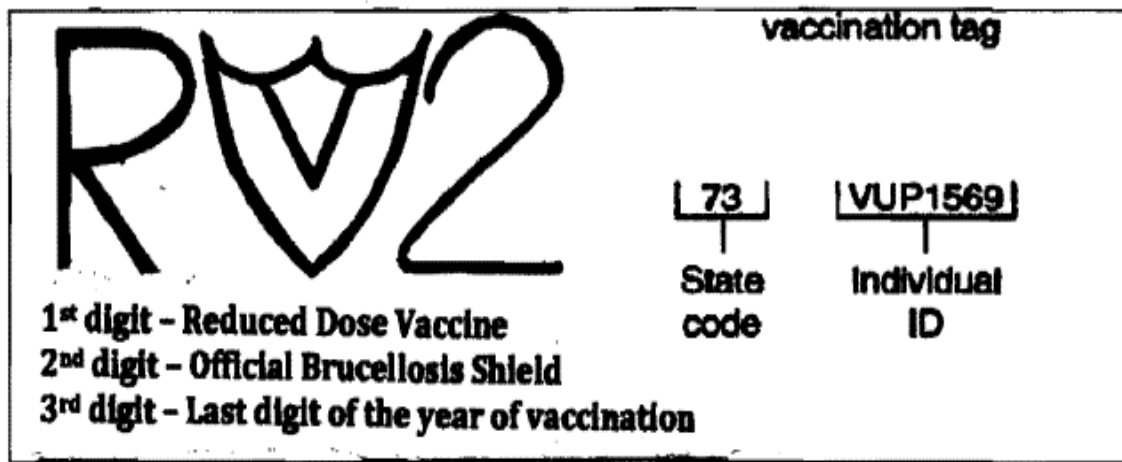
### Step 1: Vaccine Handling and Administration—

1. Keep the vaccine stored properly according to label instructions.
2. Check the expiration date before using.
3. Reconstitute the vaccine following the label instructions.
4. Mix the RB51 vaccine just before using; keep it cool and out of direct sunlight.
5. Use caution. RB51 may cause clinical brucellosis in humans if accidentally injected, sprayed in the eyes, or allowed prolonged contact with the skin. If you are exposed, contact a physician as soon as possible.
6. After reconstitution, the vaccine loses potency rapidly. Do not reconstitute more vaccine than will be used in 1 hour, and, if working in warm weather, keep the vial on an ice pack to maintain viability.
7. To avoid contamination and accidental vaccine exposure to other than vaccination-eligible animals, maintain separate syringes and needles for brucellosis.
8. Administer 2 mL of the vaccine subcutaneously.

### Step 2: Tattooing—

1. Clean the inside of the right ear to enhance ink penetration. Green ink works best for legibility, especially in black-pigmented ears.
2. Tattoo the ear with the appropriate coding between cartilage ribs in the middle of the ear. Allow for normal growth of the ear. If ear marks or notches do not permit this location, try to place the tattoo as near as possible to the recommended position.
3. Apply the ink with a dauber and thoroughly rub the ink into the tattoo holes.
4. Vaccination tattoos must be applied to the right ear. For *B. abortus* Strain 19 vaccinates, the tattoo will include the U.S. Registered shield and “V,” which will be preceded by a number indicating the quarter of the year and followed by a number corresponding to the last digit of the year in which the vaccination was done. For *B. abortus* Strain RB51 vaccinates, the tattoo will include the U.S. Registered shield and “V,” which will be preceded by a letter R and followed by a number corresponding to the last digit of the year in which the vaccination was done. Documentation of brucellosis vaccination tattoo information on the VS Form 4-33 and 4-54 is essential for accurate test interpretation.
5. Below is an example of the tattoo that would be applied in the right ear of a female calf that was brucellosis vaccinated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of a year ending in the digit “2”. The first digit represents the quarter of the calendar year that the female calf was vaccinated in. The third digit represents the last digit of the 4 year digits of the year the female calf was vaccinated in. The middle digit is the Official Brucellosis Shield. In this example the calf was vaccinated in either July, August, or September and in either 1992, or 2002, or 2012, etc. For a female calf vaccinated with RB 51, the 3 would be replaced by an R, indicating vaccination with RB 51 in 1992, or 2002, or 2012. You should contact your State animal

health official if you are interested in obtaining the Brucellosis Shield digit for your vaccination pliers.



Example of a reduced dose vaccination tattoo applied in the right ear

### Step 3: Records—

1. Record the information (eartag, age in months, breed, sex, and whether purebred or grade) on VS Form 4–24, Brucellosis Calfhood Vaccination Record, or VS Form 4–26, Brucellosis Vaccination Record. (See appendix D for examples and instructions for completing these forms.)
2. Use only official USDA orange metal vaccination tags and official USDA tattoos placed in the right ear. Individual animal registered breed association registration brands or tattoos may be substituted for official eartags. Official USDA RFID eartags placed in the left ear, to avoid interference with the official vaccination tattoo, may be substituted for the official USDA orange metal vaccination tags.
3. Promptly submit the vaccination records to your State program records offices as instructed by your State Officials. Many States require that records be submitted within 7 days; check with your State for specific guidelines. *Note: Animals are not considered to be official vaccinates until the State animal health official or APHIS –VS Area Office has recorded the certificate information. Timely submission of certificates is essential.*
4. On rare occasions, it may be necessary to recertify a vaccinated animal that has no tag or an illegible tattoo as having been vaccinated. Phone your State animal health official or APHIS –VS Area Office for permission and specific instructions.

## Working With Infected Herds

The details of eradicating brucellosis from herds known to be infected are beyond the scope of this manual. Your State animal health official, the APHIS –VS Area Office for your